

"בחדש השלישי לצאת בני ישראל מארץ מצרים ביום הזה באו מדבר סיני... ויחן שם ישראל נגד שמות י"ט א-ב ההר

"In the third month after the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai...and there Israel encamped before the mount. Exodus 19 1-2

Rashi, the commentator of the Chumash, in his review of the above verses notes that "there" 3 months after they left Egypt, the Children of Israel camped at the foot of the mountain. The language used to state that they camped is in the singular, and Rashi explains that by saying that in that place, and at the time, they were like one person with one heart, united.

He says however that in every other camp, they were arguing and there was strife. How easily we can imagine that! It is no different to how we are today as a Jewish people, constantly arguing and disagreeing with one another.

In the summer of 2014 3 Israeli teens, Eyal Ifrach, Gil-ad Shaer and Naftali Fraenkel, were making their way from their schools in the Gush Etzion region to their homes in the center of Israel. They were kidnapped by terrorists, and for 18 days the Jewish world held their breath, waiting for news. During that time, an unprecedented display of Jewish unity was shown and felt, supporting the families of the 3 boys. For 18 days, we were like one person with one heart, united.

To honor their memory, the families of the boys, together with Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat and Gesher, an Israeli NGO dedicated to bridging the gaps in Israeli society, founded "The Jerusalem Unity Prize" and Unity Day. The Jerusalem Unity Prize and Unity Day honor that sense of togetherness and hope that was so tangible during those 18 days from when the boys were kidnapped and until their bodies were found.

The Jerusalem Unity Prizes are substantial awards given to individuals, organizations, and initiatives in Israel and throughout the Jewish world whose actions are instrumental in advancing mutual respect for others amongst the Jewish people, both in times of crisis and in daily life. The Prizes are awarded during a special ceremony held at the President of Israel's official residence on Unity Day, at the beginning of June each year. Unity Day is a global celebration of Jewish unity, and in the past has included 26 countries throughout the

world, and over 1.5 million people. Unity Day brings together schools, youth movements, congregations and communities for activities, conversation and inspiration.

Follow us on Facebook: Global Jewish Unity Day

Website: www.unityprize.org

We invite you to contact us to learn how you can take part this unity day on June 7th, 2017!

Happy Passover!

